

Name of treatment or procedure

Removal of breast implants

Description of treatment or procedure

Implants previously inserted into the breast are taken out. To carry this out, patients are sent to sleep (general anaesthetic).

Current policy

This procedure will only be considered if the patient was previously treated under the NHS and complications requiring surgical intervention arise.

If surgery is being carried out for implant failure, the decision to replace the implant(s), rather than simply remove them, will be based upon clinical need and whether the patient meets the policy criteria for breast enlargement at the time of the removal surgery.

Non-core procedure Interim Gender Dysphoria Protocol & Service Guidelines 2013/14:

- where the provision of “non-core” surgeries is appropriate, the Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) should apply for treatment funding through the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The GIC should work in partnership with the CCG.

Proposed change(s)

If implants are defective and the original supplier of the implant refuses to remove them or is no longer practising, the NHS would remove implants but not replace them.

The statement referring to gender dysphoria would be removed as patients who are undergoing gender reassignment would have access to this procedure under the NHS England pathway.

Reason for proposed change(s)

The proposed change would bring the policy in line with guidelines from NHS England and Public Health.

The reference to gender dysphoria protocol would be removed for clarity as patients undergoing gender reassignment will be treated via NHS England, if necessary.

Impact of proposed change(s)

There would be limited impact on patients. If implants have ruptured or failed, surgery would still be available. All patients could still apply for this procedure, with support from their doctor, through an Individual Funding Request to their local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The CCG panel would consider whether the request could be funded.